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FROM

The Editor



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from the Editor.

A Manifest Detection

OF THE

MOST VYLE AND DETESTABLE

USE OF DICE PLAY.

EDITED BY

J. O. HALLIWELL, ESQ., F.R.S., F.S.A.

"He won it of me with false dice."—*Much Ado about Nothing*, ii, 1.

LONDON :

PRINTED FOR THE PERCY SOCIETY,

BY RICHARDS, 100, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

No. LXXXVII.

MARCH 1850.



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ETC.

©

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M.DCCC.L.

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1851 April 2

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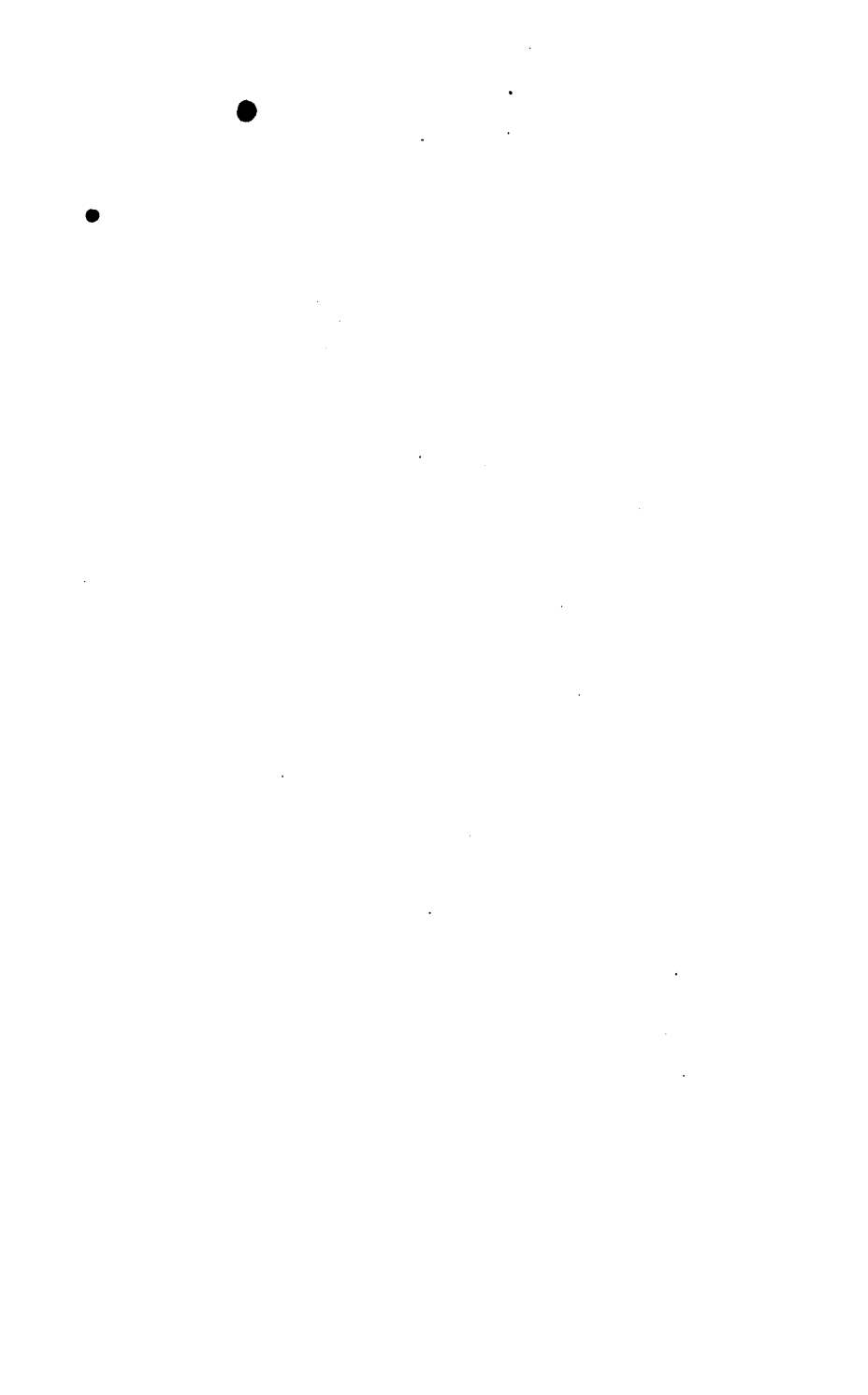
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PREFACE.

ONLY two copies of the following Tract are known to exist. One of these was purchased by the late Mr. Heber, at Nassau's sale, for £7: 17: 6, and that collector, in a note on the fly-leaf, says,—“The present copy formerly belonged to Topham Beauclerk, (Cat. *Lon.* 1781, n. 4137), and I never saw or heard of another. It formed one of eight very curious old tracts bound together in one volume, a manuscript list of which, in an ancient, perhaps contemporary, hand, was inscribed on the back of the title page of the first. From this authority, it appears that Gilbert Walker was the author of the present treatise.” Lowndes mentions another edition, printed by Richard Tottyl, 1532, 16mo.

The tract seemed worthy of re-publication, as containing a remarkably vivid description of the tricks in vogue amongst the gamesters of the sixteenth century. It has, also, many curious allusions to the manners and customs of the period, and several remarkable phrases I do not recollect to have met with elsewhere. The

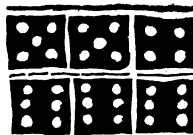
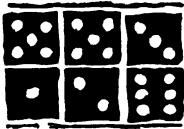
accounts of false dice are peculiarly valuable, as comprising fuller explanations of terms used by Shakespeare, and other old dramatists, than are to be found in the notes of the commentators. The mysteries of gourds and fullams, high men and low men, stumbling-blocks to many intelligent readers of the works of the Stratford poet, are here satisfactorily revealed.

The name of Gilbert Walker does not appear to occur elsewhere as an author, and the above note is the only authority we possess for attributing the tract to his pen.

It is right to add that the editor has not had an opportunity of collating this reprint, which is printed from a neat transcript, the writer of which has modernized the orthography; but there is no reason for believing that any errors of much importance will be discovered. In one or two instances, where the transcriber appears to have misunderstood the text, a note of interrogation has been affixed.

¶ A manifest de=

tection of the moske byle and detestfable
ble of Diceplay, and other practises lyke
the same ; a Myrrour very necessary for
all yonge Gentilmen & others soden-
ly enabled by worldly abudace,
to loke in. Newly set forth
for their behoufe.



¶ Democritus.

Si je ris vous estes plus folz que ne ries
de me veoir rire
De vous et de voz actes sont plus que mon
rire plut dire
Cant il ya a vous redire et auly plus sages
de vous tous.
Qui est pleine fol qui ne rit de vous.

¶ Fortune vient a point.



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M.DCCC.L.

an hour, stalking up and down alone, without any companion, sometime with such heavy and uncheerful countenance, as if ye had some hammers working in your head, and that breach of company had moved your patience ; and I, for my part, what face soever I set on the matter, am not all in quiet : for had all promises been kept, I should, or this hour, have seen a good piece of money told here upon the font, and as many indentures, obligations, and other writings sealed, as cost me twice XL*s.* for the drawing and entayle : but as to me, let them that be acold blow the coals, for I am already on the sure side, and if I miss of my hold this way, I doubt not to pinch them as near by another shift ; though indeed I must confess, that unkindness and breach of promise is so much against my nature, that nothing can offend me more. And you, on the other side, if your grief in tarrying be the same that I take it, ye cannot do better than to make little of the matter, for ye seem to be a man that wadeth not so unadvisedly in the deep, but that always ye be sure of an anchor hold ; and therefore let us by mine advice forget such idle griefs, and whiles noon-tide draweth on, talk of other matters that may quicken our spirits to make a merry dinner. Perchance this occasion may confirm a joyful acquaintance between us.

Sir, (quoth I,) as touching the cause of my long abiding here, it is not very great, neither is it tied to any such thrift as ye speak of, but lack of company will soon lead a man into a brown study.

Well then (quoth he) if your head be fraught with

no heavier burthen, it is an easy matter to lighten your load, for a little grief is soon forgotten.

But I pray you sir, 'long ye not to the court ; me-thinks I have seen you 'ere now, and cannot call it home where it should be.

M. A good workman, by St. Mary ! now do I easily foresee, without any instruction further, whereto this matter tendeth : but yet tell what further talk had ye ?

R. I told him I was yet but a raw courtier, as one that came from school not many months afore, and was now become servant to my lord chancellor of England ; partly to see experience of things the better to govern myself hereafter, and, chiefly, to have a staff to lean unto to defend mine own. And he again commended me much therein, declaring how divers notable persons, rashly by ignorance misguiding themselves, were suddenly shaken asunder, and fallen on the rocks of extreme penury : and how some other, even goodly wits, circumspectly working in all their doings, have, by want of such a leaning stock, been overthrown with tyrants power. For which cause, quoth he, like as I cannot but praise your wary working in this your first courting, so for my lord your master's sake you shall not lack the best that I may do for you : for, albeit that I am much beholding to all the lords of the counsel (as whom they stick not at all times to take to their board, and use sometime for a companion at play), yet is he my singular good lord above all the rest ; and, if I shall confess the truth, a great part of my living hath risen by his friendly pre

ferment ; and, though I say it myself, I am too old a courtier, and have seen too much, to bear nothing away ; and, in case our acquaintance hold, and, by daily company, gather deep root, I shall now and then shew you a lesson worth the learning ; and to the end hereafter each of us may be the bolder of the other, I pray you, if ye be not otherwise bespoken, take a capon with me at dinner. Though your fare be but homely and scant, yet a cup of good wine I can promise you, and all other lacks shall be supplied with a friendly welcome. I thank you, sir, quoth I ; ye offer me more gentleness than I can deserve ; but, since I have tarried all this while, I will abide the last hour, to prove how well my companions will hold their appointment ; and for that cause, I will forbear to trouble you till another time. Nay, not so, quoth he, yet had I rather spend xx*l.* than that my lord, your master, should know but that the worst groom of his stable is as dear to me as any kinsman I have ; and therefore, lay all excuses aside, and shape yourself to keep me company for one dinner, while your man and mine shall walk here together till xii of the clock ; and, if your friends happen to come hither, he shall bring them home to us. I love to see gentlemen swarm and cleave together like burrs.

M. How then ? went ye home together ?

R. What else ? would ye have me forsake so gentle a friend, and so necessary acquaintance ?

M. Go to ; say on ; lo ! how gentle lambs are led to the slaughterman's fold ; how soon rechyless youth falleth in snare of crafty dealing !

R. Soon after we came home to his house, the table was fair spread with diaper cloths, the cupboard garnished with much goodly plate, and last of all, came forth the gentlewoman, his wife, clothed in silks and embroidered works: the attire of her head 'broidered with gold and pearl; a carkenet about her neck, agreeable thereto, with a flower of diamonds pendant thereat, and many fair rings on her finger. Bess, quoth he, bid this gentleman welcome: and with that she courteously kissed me; and, after, moved communication of my name, my natural country, what time my father died, and whether I were married yet, or not, always powdering our talk with such pretty devices, that I saw not a woman in all my life whose fashions and entertainment I liked better. The good man, in the mean season, had been in the kitchen; and suddenly returning, and breaking our talk, somewhat sharply blamed his wife that the dinner was no further forward; and whiles she withdrew her from us, by like to put all things in a good readiness, come on, quoth he, you shall go see my house the while; it is not like your large country houses; rooms, ye wot, in London be strait, but yet the furniture of them be costly enough; and victuals be here at such high prices, that much money is soon consumed, specially with them that maintain an idle household; nevertheless, assure yourself that no man is welcomer than you to such cheer as ye find: and, consequently, bringing me through divers well trimmed chambers, the worst of them apparelled with verdures; some

with rich cloth of Arras ; all with beds, chairs, and cushions of silk and gold, of sundry colours, suitably wrought. Lo ! here, quoth he, a poor man's lodging ; which if ye think it may do you any pleasure (for the inns of London be the worst of England), take your choice, and hartily welcome ; reserving but one for my lord, my wife's cousin, whom I dare not disappoint, lest happily he should lower, and make the house too hot for us. I gave him thanks, as meet it was I should, neither yet refusing his gentil offer (for, indeed, mine own lodging is somewhat loathsome, and pestered with company), nor yet embracing it, because hitherto I had not by any means deserved so great a pleasure. So down we came again into the parlour, and found three divers gentlemen, all strangers to me ; and what should I say more, but to dinner we went.

M. Let me hear, then, what matters were moved at dinner time, and how ye passed the afternoon, 'till the company brake up and 'sundered themselves.

R. That can I readily tell you ; I have not yet forgotten it, since done it was so late. As touching our fare, though partridge and quail were no dainties, and wines of sundry grapes flowed abundantly, yet spare I to speak thereto, because ye have demanded a contrary question. So soon as we had well victualled ourselves, I wot not how, but easily it came to pass that we talked of news : namely, of Bullin ; how hardly it was won ; what policy then was practised to get it ; and what case the soldiers had in the seige of it ; insomuch that the least progress the king maketh

into the inland parts of the realm, dislodgeth more of his train, and leaveth them to their own provision, with less relief of victuals than had the worst unwaged adventurer there. From this the good man led us to talk of home pleasures ; enlarging the beauties of peace and London pastimes, and made so jolly a discourse thereof, that, to my judgment, he seemed skilfull in all things. Methinks, quoth he, such simple fare as this, taken in peace, without fear and danger of gun-shot, is better than a prince's purveyance in war, where each morsel he eateth shall bring with it a present fear of sudden mischance, or violent hostility : and though that in the open camp none might have more familiar access to the nobility than here at home, yet, for my part, I thank God, I have no cause to complain either, because of their gentleness ; no usher keeps the door between me and them when I come to visit them, or that the greatest princes refuse not sometimes to hallow my poor table and house with their person ; which (be it spoken without boast, or imbraiding) doth sometime cost me xx.li. a-day. I am sure that some of this company do remember what a brave company of lords sup'd with me the last term, and I think how ye have heard how some of them gat an c.li., or ii. by their coming ; with this, and that like talk, consumed was our dinner. And, after the table was removed, in came one of the waiters with a fair silver bowl, full of dice and cards. Now, masters-quoth the goodman, who is so disposed fall to : here is my xx.li. ; win it, and wear it. Then each man

choose his game : some kept the goodman company at the hazard, some matched themselves at a new game called primero.

M. And what did you the while ?

R. They egged me to have made one at dice, and told me it was a shame for a gentleman not to keep gentlemen company for his xx. or xl. crowns : nevertheless, because I alledged ignorance, the gentlewoman said I should not sit idle, all the rest being occupied, and so we two fell to saunt, five games a crown.

M. And how sped you in the end ?

R. In good faith, I passed not for the loss of xx., or xl.s., for acquaintance, and so much I think it cost me, and then I left off : marry the dice-players stuck well by it and made very fresh play, saving one, or two, that were clean shriven, and had no more money to lose. In the end, when I should take my leave to depart, I could not by any means be suffered so to break company, unless I would deliver the gentlewoman a ring for a gage of my return to supper, and so I did ; and, to tell you all in few words, I have haunted none other since I got that acquaintance : my meat, and drink, and lodging is every way so delicate, that I make no haste to change it.

M. And what, pay you nothing for it ? Have ye not an ordinary charge for your meals ?

R. None at all : but this device we have, that every player, at the first hand he draweth, payeth a crown to the box, by way of a relief towards the house charges.

M. Ye may fare well of that price at the stark-staring stews.

R. In good faith, and me think it an easy burthen for him that will put his *xli* in adventure, to pay the tribute of a crown and fare well for it; whose chance is to loose *c* crowns or *2*, would never have spared one to make a new stock withal; and whose hap is to win, were a very churl to be a niggard of so little.

M. Is every man a player there, or do some go scot free?

R. Whoso listeth not to put much in hazard playeth at mum-chance for his crown with some one or other: so som goeth free, and some be at double charge, for always we have respect that the house be relieved, and it standeth so much the more with good reason, because that besides the great charges of victuals, and great attendance of the servants, and great spoil of napery and household stuff, the goodman also looseth his *xx* or *xlii* to keep us company.

M. And what do you the whiles? I am sure ye be not yet so cunning as to keep such workmen company.

R. And why not, I pray you? is it so hard a thing to tell *xx*, or to remember *2* or *3* chances? but yet indeed I play little myself, unless it be at cards, otherwise I am the goodman's half for the most part, and join both our lucks together.

M. How sped ye there for the most part?

R. Not always as well so I would wish; I will be plain with you, as with my friend: it hath cost me *xli* within this senight; but I vouchsafe my loss the better,

I had such fair play for it, and who would not hazard xx pound among such quiet company, where no man gives a foul word ; at one good hand a man may chance, as I have often seen, to make his forty pound a hundred. And have seen again a man begin to play with v. c. mark lands, and once yet, ere the year went about, would have sold land if he had it.

M. Perchance so too.

R. But his luck was too bad ; the like falleth scarcely once in a hundred years.

M. That is but one doctors opinion. I see it betide every day, though not in this so large a proportion ; and because I see you so raw in these things, that ye account that for most unfeigned friendship where most deceit is meant, and being already given to play, may in few days come further behind than all your travail of your latter years can overtake again ; I can neither forbear thee, for the zeal I bear unto you, or the hatred I bear to the occupation, to make you understand some parts of the sleights and falshoods that are commonly practised at dice and cards ; opening and overturning the things, not so that I would learn you to put the same in use, but open their wicked snares.

R. I thank you for your gentil offer : I would be glad to know the worst, least happily I should fall in such crafty company, but yonder at my lodging cometh none but men of worship, some mounted upon mules fair trapped, some upon fine hackneys with foot cloths ; all such as, I dare say, would not practise a point of leger-de-main for an hundred pound.

M. Well, as to that, there lay a straw, till anon that the matter lead us to speak more of it. And in the mean season, let this be sufficient; that so soon as ye began your declaration of the first acquaintance in Paul's, I felt aforehand the hooks were laid to pick your purse withal.

R. Wist I that, I would from henceforth stand in doubt of mine own hands, the matter hath such appearance of honesty.

M. Well, hearken to me awhile. There is no man I am sure, that hath experience in the world, and by reading of histories conferreth our time to the days of our elders, but will easily grant, that, as time hath grown and gathered increase by running, so wit, first planted in a few, hath in time taken so many roots, that in every corner ye may find new branches budding and issuing from the same. For proof whereof, to speak of one thing among many that at this time may serve our purpose; although the Greek and Latin histories be full of notable examples of good princes that utterly exiled diceing out of their seignories and countries, or at the least held them as infamed persons, yet find I not that in these our forefathers days, any the like sleight and crafty deceit was practised in play, as now is common in every corner. Yea and he, namely, Hodge Setter, whose sirname witnesseth what opinion man had of him, though XL years agoe was thought peerless in crafty play, and had, as they say, neither mate nor fellow, yet now towards his death was so far behind some younger men in that knowledge,

that I myself have known more than xx that could make him a fool, and cannot suffer him to have the name of a workman in that faculty. And it is not yet xx years ago since all that sought their living that way, as then were few in number, scarcely so many as were able to maintain a good fray, so were they much of Hodge Setter's estate, the next door to a beggar ; now, such is the misery of our time, or such is the licentious outrage of idle misgoverned persons, that of only dicers a man might have half an army, the greatest number so gayly be-seen, and so full of money, that they 'bash not to insinuate themselves into the company of the highest, and look for a good hour to creep into a gentleman's room of the privy chanber. And hereof you may right well assure yourself, that if their cost were not exceeding great, it were not possible by the only help thereof to lead so sumptuous a life as they do, always shining like blazing stars in their apparel, by night taverning with trumpets, by day spoiling gentlemen of their inheritance ; and to speak all at once, like as all good and liberal sciences had a rude beginning, and by the industry of good men, being augmented by little and by little, at last grow to a just perfection ; so this detestable privy robbery, from a few and deceitful rules, is in few years grown to the body of an art, and hath his peculiar terms, and thereof as great a multitude applied to it, as hath grammar or logic, or any other of the approved sciences. Neither let this seem strange unto you, because the thing is not uncommonly known, for this faculty hath one condition

of juggling; that if the sleight be once discovered, marr'd is all the market. The first precept thereof is to be as secret in working, as he that keepeth a man company from London to Maidenhead, and makes good cheer by the way, to the end in the thicket to turn his prick upward, and cast a weavers knot on both his thumbs behind him; and they, to th'intent that ever in all companies they may talk familiarly in all appearance, and yet so covertly in deed, that their purpose may not be espied, they call their worthy art by a new found name, calling themselves chetors, and the dice cheaters, borrowing the term from among our lawyers, with whom all such casuals as fall unto the lord at the holding his leetes, as waifs, strays, and such like, be called chetes, as are accustomedly said to be escheted to the lord's use.

R. Trow ye, then, that they have any affinity with our men of law ?

M. Never with those that be honest. Marry! with such as be ambidexters, and use to play on both the hands, they have a great league; so have they also with all kind of people that from a good order of civility are fallen, and resolved, as it were, from the hardness of virtuous living, to the delicacy and softness of uncarefull idleness and gainfull deceit; for gain and ease be the only prickers that they shoot at. But what right, or honest means, they might acquire it, that part never cometh in question among them. And hereof it riseth that, like as law, when the term is truly considered, signifieth an ordinance of good

men, established for the commonwealth, to repress all vicious living . so these cheaters turn'd the cat in the pan, giving to divers vile, patching shifts, an honest and goodly title, calling it by the name of a law ; because by a multitude of hateful rules, a multitude of dregs and draff, as it were, all good learning, govern and rule their idle bodies, to the destruction of the good labouring people. And this is the cause that divers crafty sleights, devised only for guile, hold up the name of a law, ordained, ye wot, to maintain plain dealing. Thus give they their own conveyance the name of cheting law ; so do they other terms, as ✓ sacking law, high law, figging law, and such like.

R. What mean ye hereby? have ye spoken broad English all this while, and now begin to choke me with mysteries and quaint terms?

M. Ho! not for that ; but always ye must consider that a carpenter hath many terms, familiar enough to his prentices, that other folk understand not at all ; and so have the cheaters, not without great need, for a falsehood, once detected, can never compass the desired effect : neither is it possible to make you grope the bottom of their art, unless I acquaint you with some of their terms : therefore note this at the first ; that sacking law, signifieth whoredom ; high law, robbery ; ✓ figging law, pick-purse craft.

R. But what is this to the purpose? or what have chetors to do with whores or thieves?

M. As much as with their very intire friend, that hold all of one corporation ; for the first and original

ground of cheating is a counterfeit countenance in all things ; a study to seem to be, and not to be indeed : and, because, no great deceit can be wrought but where special trust goeth before, therefore the cheater, when he pilcheth his hay to purchase his profit, enforceth all his wits to win credit and opinion of honesty and uprightness. Who hath a greater outward shew of simplicity than the pick purse, or what woman will seem so fervent in love as will the common harlot ? So, as I told you before, the foundation of all those sorts of people is nothing else but mere simulation and bearing in hand. And like as they spring all from one root, so tend they all to one end, idly to live by rape and ruin, devouring the fruits of other men's labours, all the odds between them be in the mean actions, that lead towards the end and fixed purpose.

R. I am almost weary of my trade already to hear ye out, gay gamesters are so strongly allied with thieves and pick-purses ; but I pray you proceed, and let me hear what sundry shifts of deceit they have to meet all well together at the close.

M. That is more than I promised you at the beginning, and more than I intend to perform at this time ; for every of them keepeth as great schools in their own faculty, as the cheters do : and if I should make an open discourse of every wrinkle they have to cover and work deceit withal, I should speak of more sundry quaint conveyances, than be rocks in Milford Haven to defend the ships from the boisterous rage of the weather. But I will first go forward with that I have in hand,

and by the way, as occasion shall serve, so touch the rest, that ye may see their workmanship as it were afar off more than half a kenning. The chetor, for the most part, never receiveth his scholar to whom he will discover the secret of his art, but such one as before he had from some wealth and plenty of things, made so bare and brought to such misery, that he will refuse no labour, nor leave no stone unturned, to pick up a penny underneath, and this he doth not but upon a great skill ; for like as it is an old proverb and a true, that he must needs go whom the devil driveth ; so is there not such a devil to force a man to an extreme refuge as is necessity and want, specially where it hath proceeded of abundance : therefore the cheater, using necessity for a great part of persuasion, when he hath sucked this needy companion so dry that there remaineth no hope to press any drop of further gain from him, taketh some occasion to shew him a glimpse of his faculty ; and if, happily, he find him eagle-eyed, and diligent to mark, anon shapeth him in such a fashion as that he will raise a new gain by him, and, withall, somewhat relieve his urgent poverty. Then, walking aside into some solitary place, he maketh the first way to his purpose after this, or the like manner. I am sure it is not yet out of your remembrance how late it is since ye first fell into my company ; how great loss ye had at play before we enter'd in any acquaintance, and how little profit redounded unto me since ye first haunted my house ; neither can ye forget, on the other side, how friendly I have entertained you in

every condition ; making my house, my servants, my horses, mine apparel, and other things, whatsoever I had, rather common to us both, than private to myself : and now I perceive, that of a youthful wantonness, and, as it were, a childish oversight, ye have suddenly brought yourself, unawares to me, so far under the hatches, and are shaken with lavish dispencc, that ye cannot find the way to rise again, and bear any sail among men, as heretofore you have done ; which thing, whiles I deeply consider with myself, I cannot but lament much your negligence, and, more, the harm that is like to ensue upon it : for, first, your friends being, as I have heard, many in number, and all of worship, shall conceive such inward grief of your unthriftiness, that not one will vouchsafe a gentle plaister to quench the malice of this fretting corosie that penury hath applied : and I, again, because my hap was to have you in my house, and to gain a little of other men's leavings, shall be counted the cause of your undoing, and slandered for taking a few feathers out of the nest when other had stolen the birds already ; for which causes, and specially to help you to maintain yourself like a gentleman, as hitherto of yourself ye have been able, I can be content to put you in a good way, so as, treading the steps that I shall appoint you, neither shall ye need to run to your friends for succour, and all men shall be glad to use you for a companion. But wist I that I should find you crafting with me in any point, and void of that fidelity and secretness (some sparks whereof I have

noted in your nature), assure yourself that I would never make you privy to the matter, but give you over to your own provision, perchance to end your life with infamy and wretchedness. The young man that lately flowed in plenty and pleasures, and now was pinched to the quick with lack of all things, humbled himself anone to be wholly at his devotion, and gave him a thousand thanks for his great kindness. Then forth goeth the cheator, and further says: Though your experience in the world be not so great as mine, yet, am I sure, ye see that no man is able to live an honest man, unless he have some privy way to help himself withall, more than the world is witness of. Think you the noblemen could do as they do, if in this hard world they should maintain so great a port only upon their rent? Think you the lawyers could be such purchasers if their pleas were short, and all their judgments justice and conscience? Suppose ye the offices would be so dearly bought, and the buyers so soon enriched, if they counted not pillage an honest point of purchase? Could merchants, without lies, false making their wares, and selling them by a crooked light, to deceive the chapman in the thread, or coulour, grow so soon rich, and to a barons possessions, and make all their posterity gentlemen? What will ye more? Who so hath not some aukerward way to help himself, but foloweth his nose, as they say, always straight forward, may well hold up the head for a year, or two, but the third he must needs sink, and gather the wind into beggars haven. Therefore mine

advice shall be, that ye beat all your wits, and spare not to break your brains, always, to save and help one. Your acquaintance, I know, is great amongst your countrymen, such as be rich and full of money ; nevertheless, more simple than that, they know what good may be done in play, and better it is that each man of them smart a little, than you to live in lack. Therefore seek them out busily at their lodgings ; but always bear them in hand that ye met them by chance ; then will it not be hard to call them hither to take part of a supper ; and, having them once within the house doors, doubt ye not but they shall have a blow at one pastime or other, that shall lighten their purses homeward : myself will lend you money to keep them company, and, nevertheless, make you partaker of the gain. And, to the end ye shall not be ignorant by what means I will compass the matter, come, on go we unto my closet, and I shall give you a lesson worth the learning. Then bringeth he forth a great box with dice, and first teacheth him to know a langgret.

R. A god's name, what stuff is it ? I have often heard men talk of false dice, but I never yet heard so dainty a name given them.

M. So much the sooner may ye be deceived ; but suffer me a while, and break not my talk, and I shall paint you anon a proper kind of pouling : lo, here, saith the cheater to this young novice, a well-favoured die, that seemeth good and square, yet is the forehead longer on the cater and tray than any other

way, and therefore holdeth the name of a langret ; such be also called bard cater tres, because, commonly, the longer end will, of his own sway, draw downwards, and turn up to the eye sice sinke, deuis or ace; the principal use of them is at novem quinque. So long as a pair of bard quater tres be walking on the bord, so long can ye cast neither v nor ix, unless it be by a great mischance, that the roughness of the board, or some other stay, force them to stay and run against their kind ; for without quater Trey, ye wot that v nor x can never fall.

R. By this reason, he that hath the first dice is like always to strip and rob all the table about ?

M. True it is, were there not another help ; and for the purpose an odd man is at hand, called a flat cater tre, and none other number. The granting that tre, or quater, be alwayes one upon the one die, if there is no chance upon the other die, but may serve to make v or ix, and so cast forth and lose all ; therefore (saith the master) marke well your flat, and learn to know him surely when he runeth on the board, the whiles he is abroad, ye forbear to cast at much ; and keeping this rule to avoid suspicion, because I am known for a player, ye shall see me bring all the gain into your hands.

R. But what shift have they to bring the flat in and out ?

M. A jolly fine shift, that properly is called foysting, and it is nothing else but a sleight to carry easily within the hand as often as the foister lies. So that

when either he or his partner shall cast the dice, the flat comes not abroad till he have made a great hand, and won as much as him list. Otherwise the flat is ever on, unless at few times, that, of purpose, he suffer the silly soules to cast in a hand or two to give them courage to continue their play, and live in hope of winning.

R. This gear seemeth very strange unto me, and it sinketh not yet into my brain, how a man might carry so many dice in one hand, and chop them and change them so often, and the thing not espied.

M. So jugler's conveyance seemeth to exceed the compass of reason till ye know the feat. But what is it that labour overcometh not? And true it is, to foist finely, and redily, and with the same hand to tell money to and fro, is a thing hardly learned, and asketh a bold sprite and long experience, though it be one of the first be learned. But to return to the purpose, if happily this young scholar have not so ready and so skilful an eye, to deserne the flat at every time that he is foisted in (for use maketh mastery, as well in this as in other things); then partly to help this ignorance withall, and partly to teach the young cock to crowe, all after the cheator's kind, the old cole instructeth the young in the terms ✓ of his art after this manner. Ye know that this outrageous swearing and quarreling that some use in play, giveth occasion to many to forbear, that else would adventure much money at it; for this we have a device amongst us, that rather we relent and give

place to a wrong, than we would cause the play, by strife, to cause any company to break ; neither have we any oathes in use but lightly these ; of honesty, of truth, by salt, Martine ; which, when we use them affirmatively, we mean always directly the contrary. As for example, if haply I say unto you, when the dice cometh to your hands, of honesty cast at all ; my meaning is, that ye shall cast at the board or else at very little. If, when a thing is offered in gage, I swear by Saint Martine I think it fine gold, then mean I the contrary, that it is but copper. And like as it is a gentle and old proverb, let losers have their wordes : so by the way take forth this lesson, ever to shew gentleness to the silly fools, and creep if ye can into their very bosoms. For harder it is to hold them when ye have them, then for the first time to take them up ; for these young wits be so light, and so wavering, that it requireth great travel to make them always dance after one pipe. But to follow that we have in hand, be they young, be they old, that falleth into our laps, and be ignorant of our arte, we call them all by the name of a couzin ; as men that we make as much of as if they were of our kin ; indeed, the greatest wisdome of our faculty resteth in this point ; diligently to foresee to make the couzin sweat, that is to have a will to keep play and company, and always to beware that we cause him not smoke, least that having any feel or savour of guile intended against him, he slip the collar as it were a hound, and shake us of for ever. And whensoever ye take up a couzin,

be sure, as near as ye can, to know aforehand what store of byt he hath in his bag ; that is, what money he hath in his purse, and whether it be in great coggs or in small, that is, gold or silver ; and at what game he will soonest stoop, that we may feed him with his own humor, and have caules ready for him ; for thousands there bee that will not play a groat at noven, and yet will loose a hundred pound at the hasard ; and he that will not stoop a dodkin at the dice, per chaunce at cardes will spend God's cope ; therefore they must be provided for every way. Generally, your fine cheats, though they be good, made both in the king's bench and in the marshalsea, yet Bird, in Holborn, is the finest workman ; acquaint yourself with him, and let him make you a bale or two of quarters of sundry sizes, some lesse, some more, to throw into the first play, till ye perceive what your company is ; then have in a rediness, to be roisted in when time shall be, your fine cheats of all sorts, be sure to have in store of such as these be :—a bale of hard sink deusis, a flat sink deusis, a bale of bard vi easis, and flat vi easis ; a bale of bard quarter tres, and flat quarter tres. The advantage whereof is all on the one side, and consisteth in the forging. Provide also a bale or two of fullans, for they have great use at the hazard : and though they be square outward, yet being within at the corner with lead or other ponderous matter stopped, minister as great an advantage as any of the rest ; ye must also be furnished with high men and low men for a mum-chance and for passage. Yea, and a

long die for even and odd is good to strike a small stroke withal, for a crown or two, or the price of a dinner. As for gords and bristle dice, be now too gross a practice to be put in use ; light graviers there be, demies, contraries, and of all sorts, forged clean against the apparent vantage, which have special and sundry uses. But it is enough at this time to put you in a remembrance what tools ye must prepare to make you a workman. Hereafter, at more leisure, I shall instruct you of the several uses of them all, and in the mean season take with you also this lesson ; that when fine squariers only be stirring, there rests a great help in cogging ; that is, when the undermost die standeth dead by the weighty fall of his fellow ; so that if vi be my chance, and x yours, grant that upon the die, I cogg and keep alway an ace, deuce, or tray, I may perhaps soon cast vi, but never x. And there be divers kinds of cogging, but of all other the Spanish cogg bears the bell, and seldom raiseth any smoke. Grammercy, sayth the scholar, and now thinketh he himself so ripely instructed, that though he be not yet able to beguile others, yet he supposeth himself sufficiently armed against all falshood that might be wrought to bring him to an after-deal, and little seeth he the while how many other ends remain, how many points there be in slippery cheater's science, that he shall not yet be skilful enough to tagg in their kind, perchance in four or five years' practice.

R. Why! have they any deeper reaches to lift a man out of his saddle, and rid him of his money, than ye have opened already ?

M. Alas! this is but a warning, and, as it were, the shaking of a rod to a young boy, to fear him from places of peril. All that I have told you yet, or that I have minded to tell you, 'greeth not to the purpose to make you skilful in cheaters occupation. For as soon would I teach you the next way to Tyburn as to learn you the practise of it: only my meaning is to make you see as far into it as should a cobbler into a tanner's faculty; to know whether his leather be well liquored, and well and workmanly dress'd, or not. And, like as I would not wish a cobbler a currier, lest two sundry occupations, running together into one, might, perhaps, make a lewd London medley in our shoes; the one using falshood in working, the other facing and lying in uttering. So seek I to avoid, that ye should not both be a courtier (in whom a little honest, moderate play is tolerable) and, withall, a chetor, that with all honesty hath made an indefensible dormant defiance. For, even this new nurtured novice, notwithstanding he is received into the colledge of these double dealers, and is become so good a scholar, that he knoweth readily his flats and barris, and hath been snapper with the old cole at 2 or 3 deep strokes; yea, and though he have learned to verse, and lay in the reason well favouredly, to make the cousin stoupe all the coggs in his bag, yet if he once wax slow in seeking out cousins, and be proud of his new thrift, and so goodly a passage to recover his old losses, the knapp of the case, the goodman of the house calleth secretly unto him the third person,

for the most part a man that might be warden of his company, and talketh with him after this manner : here is a young man in my house, if ye know him, that hath been one of the sweetest cousins alive, so long as he was able to make a groat ; now at the last, I wot not how he came by it, he hath gotten some knowledge, and talks of a great deal more than he can in deed. Marry a langret he knoweth metely well, and that is all his skill. I made much of him all this month, because he hath great acquaintance of men of the country, and specially the cloth men of the west parts ; and, at the beginning, would every day fill the case with jolly fat cousins ; and, albeit he had no knowledge to work any feat himself, yet did I use him always honestly, and gave him his whole snap, to the end he should be painful and diligent to take the cousins up, and bring them to the blow. Now waxen is he so proud of his gain, because he hath gotten a new chain, fyer new apparel, and some store of byte (?), that I cannot get him once out of the door to go about anything. Take some pains yourself, saith he, and bring some of your own cousins home, or else let all alone for me. Thus, if ye see that nothing mars him, but that he is too fat, and might we make him once lean again, as he was within this month, then should we see the hungry horeson trudge. There should not be stirring a cousin in any quarter but he would wind him strait. Therefore come you in, anon, like a stranger, and he shall see him take you up roundly. If ye lack contraries, to crosbite him withall, I shall lend you a pair of the same size that his cheats be.

R. Is there no more fidelity among them? can they not be content, one false knave to be true to his fellow, though they conspire to rob all other men?

M. Nothing less! Did not I warn you in the beginning, that the end of the science is mere deceit; and would ye have themselves against their kind, to work contrary to their profession. Nay, they be ever so like themselves, that when all other deceits fail, look which of them in play gets any store of money into his hands, he will every foot, as he draweth a hand, be figging more or less, and rather than fail, cram it and hide it in his hose, to make his gain greatest. Then when they fall to the division of the gain, and the money that the cousin hath lost is not forth coming, nor will be confessed among them, it is a world to hear what rule they make, and how the one imbradeth the other with dishonesty, as if there were some honesty to be found among them. What should I then speak of swearing and staving, were they always as liberal of alms as they be of oaths; I had rather bring a beggar to have the reward of a cheater, than to the best alms knight's room that the king gives at Windsor. But these storms never fall but in secret councils within themselves, and then peradventure the stronger part will strip the weaker out of his clothes rather than he should flock away with the stuff, and make them loath to labour for his lucre.

R. Then is it but folly to recover my losses in yonder company; and if there cannot be one faithful

couple found in the whole band, how might I hope, that am but a stranger, to win an unfeigned friend amongst them ?

M. As for in that case, never speak more of the matter, and be as sure as ye are of your creed, that all the friendly entertainment ye have at your lodging is for no other end but for to persuade you to play, and bring you to loss ; neither was it any better than falsehood in fellowship, when the goodman got you to be half, and seemed unwillingly to lose both your monies.

R. By these means, other must I utterly forbear to hazard anything at the dice, or live in doubt, and suspected of my friend, whensoever I fall to play.

M. No question thereof ; for the contagion of cheating is now so universal that they swarm in every quarter, and therefore ye cannot be in safety from deceit, unless ye shun the company of hazarders, as a man would fly a scorpion.

R. Then am I sufficiently lessoned for the purpose ; but because at the first our talk matched dice and cards together like a couple of friends that draw both in a yoke ; I pray you, is there as much craft at cards as ye have rehearsed at the dice ?

M. Altogether, I would not give a point to choose ; they have such a sleight in sorting and shuffling of the cards, that play at what game ye will, all is lost aforehand. If two be confederated to beguile the third, the thing is compassed with the more ease than if one be but alone, yet are there many ways to de-

ceive. Primero, now as it hath most use in court, so is there most deceit in it : some play upon the prick ; some pinch the cards privily with their nails ; some turn up the corners ; some mark them with fine spots of ink. One fine trick brought in a Spaniard : a finer than this invented an Italian, and won much money with it by our doctors, and yet, at the last, they were both overreached by new sleights devised here at home. At trump, saint, and such other like, cutting at the neck is a great vantage, so is cutting by a bum card (finely) under and over, stealing the stock of the decarded cards, if there be broad laws beforced aforehand. At decoy, they draw easily xx hands together, and play all upon assurance when to win or lose. Other helps I have heard of besides ; as, to set the cousin upon the bench with a great looking-glass behind him on the wall, wherein the chetor might always see what cards were in his hand. Sometimes they work by signs made by some of the lookers-on. Wherefore methinks this, among the rest, proceeded of a fine invention. A gamester, after he had been oftentimes bitten among the cheters, and after much loss, grew very suspicious in his play, that he could not suffer any of the sitters by to be privy to his game ; for this the cheters devised a new shift. A woman should sit sowing besides him ; and by the shift, or slow drawing her needle, give a token to the chetor what was the cousins game : so that from a few examples instead of infinite, that might be rehearsed, this one universal conclusion may be gathered, that give you to play, and yield yourself to loss. D

R. I feel well that if a man happen to put his money in hazard, the odds is great that he shall rise a loser ; but many men are so continent of their hands, that nothing can cause them to put ought in adventure : and some, again, be unskilful, that lack of cunning forceth them to forbear.

M. I graunt you well both ; but, nevertheless, I never yet saw man so hard to be vanquished, but they would make him stoupe at one law or other. And, for that purpose, their first travail is, after that they have taken up the cousin, and made him somewhat sweat, to seek, by all means they can, to understand his nature, and whereunto he is inclined. If they find that he taketh pleasure in the company of females, then seek they to strike him at the sacking-law : and take this always for a maxim, that all the bauds in a country be of the chetors familiar acquaintance. Therefore it shall not be hard, at all times, to provide for this amorous knight a lewd, lecherous lady to keep him loving company. Then fall they to banquetting, to minstrels, masking ; and much is the cost that the silly cousin shall be at in jewels, apparel, and otherwise : he shall not once get a grant to have scarcely a lick at this dainty lady's lips ; and ever among she layeth in this reason, for her sake to put his xx or xl crowns in adventure ; ye wot not, saith she, what may be a woman's luck. If he refuse it, Lord ! how unkindly she taketh the matter, and cannot be reconciled with less than a gown, or a kirtle of silk, which commonly is a reward unto her by knap of the case, and

the cut-throats, his complices, to whom the matter is put in daying. Yea, and the more is, if haply they perceive that he esteemeth not brousid ware, but is enamoured with virginity, they have a fine cast, within an hour's warning, to make Joan Silverpin as good a maid as if she had never come at stews, nor opened to any man her quiver. The mistery thereof ye shall understand by this, my tale, which I myself saw put in experience. A young roisterly gentleman desiring a maiden make to content his wanton lust, resorted to a baud, and promised her good wages to provide him a maid against the next day : he declared unto her, that he took more pleasure in virginity than beauty, but if both came together the pleasure was much the more thankful, and her reward should be the better. This mother baud undertook to serve his turn according to his desire ; and having at home a well-painted, mannerly harlot, as good a maid as Fletcher's mare, that bare three great foals, went, in the morning, to the apothecaries for half-a-pint of sweet water, that commonly is called surfulyng-water, or clynkerdevice ; and, on the way homeward, turned into a nobleman's house to visit his cook, an old acquaintance of her's : unneth had she set her feet within the kitchen, and set down her glass, the more handsomely to warm her afore the range, but anon the cook had taken her in his arms, and whiles they wrestled more for manners sake of the light, than for any squeamish business had she been behind the door, down fell the glass, and spilt was the water. Out, alas ! quoth the woman. Quiet

yourself, quoth the cook ; let us go into the buttery to breakfast, and I will buy you a new glass, and pay for the filling. Away they went out of the kitchen ; and the boy, that turned a couple of spits, delighting with the savour of the water, let first one spit stand, and after another, always, with one hand, taking up the water as it dropped from the board by him, and washed his eyes, his mouth, and all his face withall. Soon after that, this liquor was, with the heat of the fire, dried, and soked up in the boy's face. Down came the cook again into the kitchen, and, finding the breast of the capon all burnt for lack of turning, caught up a great basting-stick to beat the turnspit, and, happily, casting a sower look upon him, espied the boy's mouth and eyes drawn so together, and closed, that neither had he left an eye to look withall, and scarcely might you turn your little finger in his mouth. The cook, abashed with the sudden change, ran about the house half out of his wit, and cried, the kitchen-boy is taken, he can neither see nor speak ; and so the poor boy, with his starched face, continued more than half-an-hour a wondering-stock to all the house, 'till a man of experience bad bathe his face with hot fat veal broth, whereby, forthwith, he was restored to as wide a mouth, and as open eyes as he had before.

R. A good miracle, and soon wrought. If maids be so easy to make, no marvel it is we have such store in London. But forth, I pray you, with your purpose : when whoredom hath no place, what other shifts have they to raise their thrift upon ?

M. A hundred more than I can rehearse, but most commonly one of these that follow. If it be winter season, when masking is most in use, then, missing of their cheap helps, they spare not for cost of the dearer. Therefore, first do they hire, in one place or other, a suit of right masking apparel, and after, invite divers guests to a supper, all such as be then of estimation, to give them credit by their acquaintance, or such as they think will be liberal to hazard some thing in a mum-chance; by which means they assure themselves, at the least, to have the supper scot free; perchance, to win xx*l.*, about. And howsoever the common people esteem the thing, I am clean out of doubt, that the more half of your gay masks in London are grounded upon such cheating crafts, and tend only the pouling and robbing of the king's subjects. Another oily shift, and for the subtil invention and fineness of wit exceedeth far all the rest, is the barnard's law: which, to be exactly practised, asketh — four persons at the least, each of them to play a long several part by himself. The first is the taker up, a skilful man in all things, who hath, by long travail, conned, without the book, a hundred reasons to insinuate himself into a man's acquaintance. Talk of matters in law, and he hath plenty of cases at his tongue's ends that he hath seen tried and ruled in every of the king's courts. Speak of grazing and husbandry, no man knoweth more shires than he, no man knoweth better when to raise a gayn, and how the abuses and overture of prices might be redressed.

Finally, enter into what discourse of things they list, were it into a broom-man's faculty, he knoweth what gain they have for old boots and shoes, and whence their gain cometh ; yea, and it shall escape him hard, but that ere your talk break off, he will be your countryman at least ; and, peradventure, either of kin, or ally, or some soul (?) unto you, if your reach surmount not his too far. In case he bring to pass that ye be glad of his acquaintance, and content with his company, play'd is the chief of his part, and he giveth place to the principal player, the barnard ; nevertheless, he lightly hath in his company a man of more worship than himself, that hath the countenance of a possessioner of land, and he is called the verser ; and though it be a very hard thing to be a perfect taker up, and, as it were, a man universally practised in all accidents of a man's life, yet doth the barnard go so far beyond him in cunning, as doth the sun's summer brightness exceed the glimmering light of the winter stars. This body's most common practice is to come stumbling into your company like some rich farmer of the country, a stranger to you all, that hath been at some market town thereabouts, buying and selling, and there tippled so much malmsley, that he had never a reddy word in his mouth, and is so careless for his money, that out he throweth an hundred or two of old angels upon the board's end, and standing somewhat aloof, calleth for a pot of ale, and saith, " Masters, I am somewhat bold with you, I pray you be not aggrieved that I drink my drink by

you"; and minister such idle drunken talk, that the verser, who counterfeteth the gentleman, cometh stoutly and sits at your elbow, praying you to call him near to laugh at his folly : between them two the matter shall be so workmanly conveyed, and so finely argued, that out commeth a pair of old cards, whereat the barnard teacheth the verser a new game, that he supposeth cost him two pots of ale for the learning not past an hour or two before. The first wager is drink, the next twopence, or a groat, and lastly, to make the tale short, they use the matter, so that he that hath Lxxx years of his luck, and never played for a groat in his life, cannot refuse to be the verser, as half, and consequently, at one cutting of the cards, to lose all they play for, be it an hundred pound; as if, perhaps, when the money is lost, the cousin begins to smoke, and swear that the drunken knave shall not get his money ; so then standeth the rubber at the door, and draweth his sword, and picketh a quarrel to his own shadow ; if he lack, an ostler, or a tapester, or some other, to fall out withal ; that while the street and company gather to the fray, as the manner is, the barnard steals away with all the stuff, and picks him to one blind tavern or other, such as before is appointed among them, and there abideth the coming of his companions to make an equal portion of the gain ; and whensoever these shifts may not take place, then lead they the cousin to the gaze of an enterlude, or the bear bayting at Paris garden, or some other place of throng, where, by five fingered figg loy,

a grounded disciple of James Elis, picked shall be his purse, and his money lost in a moment ; or else they run to the last refuge of all, and by a knot of lusty companions of the high law, not only shake the harmless body out of all his clothes, but bind him, or rob him to boot, that less had been his harm to have stopped law at the first, and so to have stopped their greedy mouths, than to save himself so long, and in the end to be fleeced as bare as a new born sheep, and perchance so far from his friends, that he shall be forced to trip on his ten toes homeward, for lack of a hackney to ride on, and beg for his charges on the way.

R. Now speak ye indeed of a ready way to thrift, but it hath an ill favoured success many times.

M. I wot what you mean; you think they come home by Tyburn or St. Thomas of Watrings, and so they do indeed, but nothing so soon as a man would suppose; they be but petty figgers and unlessoned lads that have such ready passage to the gallows. The old theives go through with their vices well xx or xxx years together, and be seldom taken, or tainted, specially those figg bodies that have a goodly corporation for the releif. Their craft, of all others, requireth most sleight, and hath a marvellous plenty of terms and strange language, and therefore no man can attain to be a workman thereat, 'till he have had a good time of schooling, and by that means do not only know each other well, but they be subject to an order such as the elders shall prescribe. No man so sturdy to practise

his feat, but in the place appointed, nor for any cause once to put his foot in another's walk. Some 2 or 3 hath Pauls Church in charge; other hath Westminster hall in term time; divers Cheapside with the flesh and fish shambles; some the Borough and bear baiting; some the Court; and part follow markets in the country with pedlars footpacks; and generally to all places of assembly. Some of them are certainly pointed, as it were, by their wardens to keep the haunt with commission but a short while, and to interchange their places as order shall be made, to avoid suspicion. By occasion whereof, whensoever any stroke or workmanly stricken, though it were at Newcastle, the rest of the figg boys that keep resident in London, can forthwith prognosticate by whom the worthy feat was wrought; and one great provision they have, that is a sovereign salve at all times of need, a treasurer they chose in some blind corner, a trusty secret friend; that whensoever there cometh any jewels, plate, or such gear to their share, the present sale whereof might chance to discover the matter, the same is committed into his hands in pledge as it were of money lent, and he taketh a bill of sale in default of repayment, as if all things were done by good faith and plain dealing, so that whensoever he shall seek to make money of his gages, at the end of 2 or 3 months, if any question arise how he came by them, he sheweth anon a fair bill of sale for his discharge, from John a Knock or John a Stile, a man that never was, never shall be found. And such theft by this occasion is ever man-

nerly covered. Another help they have, that of every purse that is cleanly conveyed, a rateable portion is duely delivered into the treasurer's hands, to the use, that whensoever by some misadventure any of them happen to be taken and laid in prison, this common stock may serve to satisfy the party greived, and to make friends to save them from hanging. Now have ye a calendar, as it were, to put you in remembrance of these cheif points and practises of cheating, enough I suppose to serve for a warning that ye withdraw yourself from yonder costly company, wherein, if my experience may serve to give you occasion to eschew such evils, I shall be glad of this our happy meeting.

R. Yes, doubt ye not thereof, but that this talk hath wrought already such effects in me, that, though I live a hundred years, I shall not lightly fall into the chetors snares ; but because ye spake of the principal points, whereby I conceive that yet some small sparks remain untouched, I pray you put me out of doubt thereof, and then, on God's name ye shall gladly depart with as many thanks as if ye had disbursed a large sum of money for redemption of my land, and saved it from selling : for had not forewarning come, the merchant did my bed-fellow but now the last week ; whose losses I pity so much the more, as that now I understand by what cheatery it was won.

M. The feat of losing is easily learned, and as I told you in the beginning that the cheaters beat and busy their brains only about fraud and subtilty, so can it not

be chosen but give themselves over all to that purpose, and must every day forge out one new point of knavery or other to deceive the simple withall ; as of late I knew a young gentleman so wary in his doings, that neither by dice or cards, nor by damoisells of dalliance, nor of the ways afore rehearsed, could be made stope one penny out of his purse : for this the chetor consulted with the land-lady in this case devised, that she should dally with the gentleman and playing with his chain should find the mean to keep it awhile, till they might fig a link or two to make a little by : done it was anon, and within few days after, another made of copper equal in length to that. At the gentleman's next returning to the house, the damoiselle dallied so long with the chain, sometime putting it about her neck and sometimes about his, that in the end she foisted the copper chain in the other's place, and thereby robbed him of better than xl. *l.* This and the like shifts I forbear to remember, sooner because the deceit resteth not in any slight practice at dice and cards, nevertheless because cheators were the first inventors as well of this as of all other falsehood, in fellowship that now daily is put in use at all manner of games ; as when one man lost, not many years ago, an hundred pound land at shooting, by occasion that some that shot with him on his side were booty fellows against him ; another was rid of his six hundred pounds, at tennis, in a week by the fraud of his stopper. Me think they cannot be better rewarded than sent home to the place they come from,

and since cheaters were the first authors thereof, let them also bear the blame ; and having disclosed unto you, as briefly as I can, the principal practice of the chetors crafty faculty, and other workman of their alliance, I will bid you farewell for this time.

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NOTES.

P. 3, l. 13.—*Sort*. That is, company. “The shallowest thick-skin of that barren *sort*.—*Mids. Night’s Dream*, iii, 2.

P. 5, l. 3.—*Church of Pauls*. It is hardly necessary to observe, so numerous are the allusions to the practice, that the old cathedral of St. Paul’s was a common place of resort and promenade.

P. 8, l. 30.—*Reckless*. That is, reckless.

P. 9, l. 2.—*Cupboard*. The cupboard was equivalent to the modern sideboard. Literally, a *board*, or *table*, for holding the cups and plate. The cupboards were rendered the media for exhibiting the domestic wealth of the house.

P. 10, l. 1.—*Arras*. Tapestry made at Arras, the capital of Artois in the French Netherlands. This place being celebrated for its manufacture, the term was, probably, generally applied to many other kinds of tapestry.

P. 10, l. 27.—*Bullen*. That is, Boulogne. The reader will recollect a well-known passage in *Hudibras*,—

“ His trowsers were of rugged woollen,
And had been at the siege of *Bullen*.”

This siege was remembered as long, and quoted nearly as frequently, as the discomfiture of the Spanish Armada.

P. 11, l. 21.—*Imbraiding*. That is, upbraiding.

P. 13, l. 17.—*Napery*. Table linen. “*Naprie*, store of linnen, *linge*.”—*Palsgrave*, 1530.

P. 16, l. 11.—*Be-seen*. Clothed ; adorned.

“ Then came the daunsing-master, well *beseene*,
 Who somewhat eke misliked of that name ;
 Master of Musicke termed would have beene,
 A science liberall, of noble fame.”

Thynnes's Debate, ed. Collier, p. 50.

P. 17, l. 11.—*Chetors*. This special application of the term is also found in Shakespeare, and the passage in our text is a good illustration of the word. The following extract, however, from the *Fraternitye of Vacabondes*, 1575, offers not only the best explanation of the phrase, but the most complete confirmation of the character given by our author :—

A Cheatour, or Fingener.

These, commonly, be such kinde of idle vacabondes as scarcely a man shall discerne, they go so gorgeously ; sometime with waiting-men, and sometime without. Their trade is to walke in such places whereas gentlemen, and other worshipfull citizens, do resorte ; as at Poules, or Christes Hospital, and sometime at the Royal Exchange. These have very many acquaintances ; yea, and for the most part will acquaint themselves with every man, and fayne a society in one place or other. But chiefly they will seeke their acquaintance of such (which they have learned by deligent enquiring where they resort) as have receyved some porcion of money of their friends ; as yong gentlemen which are sent to London to study the lawes, or els some yong marchantman, or other kynde of occupyer, whose friendes hath geven them a stock of mony to occupy withall. When they have thus found out such a prey, they will find the meanes by theyr familiarity, as very curteously to bid him to breakefast at one place or other, where they are best acquainted ; and closely amonge themselves wil ap-

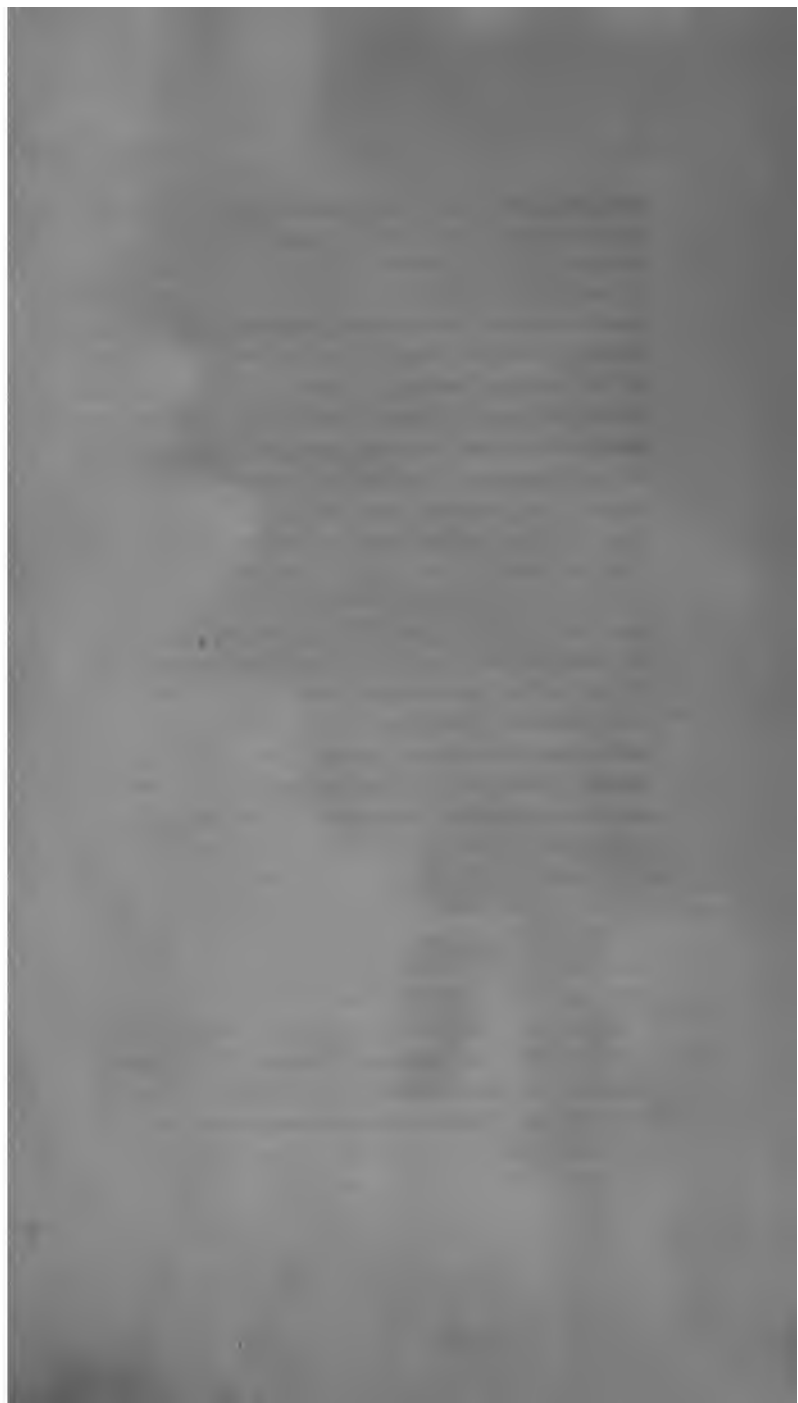
point one of their fraternity, which they call a fyngerer ; an olde beaten childe, not only in such deceites, but also such an one as by his age is painted out with gray heares, wrinkled face, crooked back, and most commonly lame, as it might seeme with age ; yea, and such a one as to shew a simplicity, that wore a homely cloake and hat scarce worth *vid.* This nimble fingred knight (being appointed to this place) cometh in as one not knowen of these cheatours, but as unawares shal sit down at the end of the bord where they syt, and call for his peny pot of wine or a pinte of ale, as the place serveth. Thus sitting as it were alone, mumblyng on a crust, or some such thing, these other youckers wil find some kind of mery talke with him ; sometimes questioning where he dwelleth, and sometimes enquiring what trade he useth, which commonly he telleth them he useth husbandry, and talking thus merely, at last they aske him, How sayest thou, father ? wylt thou play for thy breakfast with one of us, that we may have some pastime as we syt ? This olde karle, makyng it straunge at the first, saith : my maysters, ich am an old man, and halfe blinde, and can skyl of very few games, yet for that you seeme to be such good gentelmen, as to profer to play for that which you had no part, but onely I myselfe, and therefore of right ich am worthy to pay for it, I shal with all my hart fulfyl your request. And so falleth to play, sometime at cardes, and sometime at dice, which through his counterfait simplicity in the play, sometimes over counteth himself, or playeth sometimes against his wyl, so as he would not, and then counterfaiteth to be angry and falleth to swearing, and so, leessing that, profereth to play for a shillyng or two. The other thereat having good sport, seeming to mocke him, falleth againe to play, and so by their legerdemane and counterfaiting, winneth ech of them a shilling or twain, and at last whispereth the young

man in the eare, to play with hym also, that ech one might have a fling at him. This yong man, for company, falleth againe to play also with the said fyngerer, and winneth as the other did, which when he had loste a noble or *vis*. maketh as though he had lost al his money, and falleth a intreating for parte thereof againe to bring him home, which the other knowing his mind and intent, stoutely denieth, and jesteth, and scoffeth at him. This fingerer seeming then to be in a rage, desireth them, as they are true gentlemen, to tary till he fetcheth more store of money, or els to point some place where they may meete. They, seeming greedy hereof, promiseth faithfully, and clappeth hands, so to meete. They, thus ticklyng the young man in the eare, willeth him to make as much money as he can, and they wil make as much as they can, and consent as though they wil play booty against him ; but in the ende, they so use the matter, that both the young man leeseth his part, and, as it seemeth to him, they leeing theirs also, and so maketh as though they would fal together by the eares with this fingerer, which by one wyle or other, at last conveyeth himselfe away ; and they, as it were, raging lyke mad bedlams, one runneth one way, another another way, leaving the loser all indeede alone.

P. 17, l. 20.—*Ambidexters*. “Mas, that’s true ; they say the lawyers have the divel and all, and it is like enough he is playing *ambodexter* amongst them.”—*Pierce Penilesse, his Supplication to the Devil*, 1592.

P. 35, l. 10. *Make*. That is, mate or companion.

P. 40, l. 17. *St. Thomas of Watrings*. This place was situated at the second mile-stone on the road from London to Canterbury. It was a place of execution, almost as celebrated as Tyburn, and is here alluded to on that account.









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